

CUMANN EIREANNACH NA LITEARDHAGHTA

IRISH LITERARY SOCIETY

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PROCRAMME FOR DECEMBER.

- 4. Saturday.
- 8. Lecture, 'Belg an Camma ets.
- 8 and 9. Wed. and Thur. 11 to 7.
- 11. Saturday. 4 to 7.30. War Work.
 - 8. Social Circle. "Dranning Removes."
- 18. Saturday. 4 to 7.30. War Work.
 - 8. Social Circle.

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No. 5

STANDISH HAYES O'GRADY.

Standish Hayes O'Grady, the greatest Irish scholar of our time, was born at Erinagh House, Castle Connell, Co. Limerick, on 19th May, 1832, a younger son of Admiral Hayes O'Grady (1787-1864), brother of the first Viscount Guillamore. He was brought up and "fostered" in the barony of Coonagh, where all spoke Irish, and thus he was entitled to speak of that language as "his sweet mother tongue." He was perfeetly at home in the spoken language of the people, and steeped in the traditional lore of the country. He was a brilliant and correct speaker of Irish, as witty in that language as he was in English (Hyde). This, of course, gave him an immense advantage over his later contemporaries. He was sent to Rugby, and Tait, the headmaster, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, regarded him as a boy of great promise. Whilst here, it is related, that seeing a band of Irish labourers pass, he mounted a wall and addressed them in their tongue to their great astonishment and enjoyment. From Rugby he went to T.C.D., and, though not graduating, showed the same love of learning; classical, Oriental and, above all, Irish. He made full use of the MS. collections in Dublin, enquired into every part of the literature and history, and travelled the four provinces. He studied the peculiarities of the handwriting of every period, and, like the ancient scribes, wrote a most beautiful hand himself, and could make fine facsimiles of ancient MSS (Moore). O'Grady's first publication was a translation of "The Adventures of Donnchadh ruad MacConmara" into English verse (pp. 48, 1853), over the signature of "S. Hayes." A friendship with the great scholars O'Donovan and O'Curry led to his joining the Ossianic Society, of which he became President in 1856, and for it edited "The Pursuit of Diarmuid and Graine," with translation and notes (Dub. 1857), the last proof of which he corrected in Smallman's Hotel, Roscrea. This has been several times reprinted. Adopting the profession of civil engineer, he spent the next thirty years of his life in California and other western States. Returning home, he settled in London and resumed his studies in his favourite subject. He contributed much to "The Academy" in the years 1885-1889, but a difference with Whitley Stokes over some "Irish Items" in the latter year caused an estrangement between them, and they never spoke again! Dr. Hyde thinks that Stokes could not understand the sportive wit with which O'Grady was liberally endowed. In 1888 O'Grady published in "Melusine" two Irish texts and translations, and in 1892 his masterpiece "Silva Gadelica," in two volumes, Irish and English, the Irish text extending to 416 large pages of close print. "It is a collection of thirty-one Irish texts, all but five edited for the first time, and those five edited quite independently. Copious illustrative passages from MSS. are added, with many notes, in an appendix full of knowledge to be found nowhere else. The texts include some lives of the saints, some fragments of history, and some romances of various periods" (Moore). His other great work, unhappily unfinished through some disagreement as to method with the then authorities is his "Catalogue of Irish MSS. in the British Museum," pp. 672. "It is a thousand pities," says Douglas Hyde, "that he did not finish this wonderful catalogue in his own inimitable and breezy unofficial style; for of all the catalogues ever made this is surely the breeziest and least official." Dr. Norman Moore says it contains "more learning on Irish literature and history, with better illustrations of the language, than are to be found in any other single treatise, and of a kind which no other man of the present age could have produced but O'Grady." The author was rewarded in the following year by the University of Cambridge with the degree of D.Litt. He left another unfinished work, a translation with notes of "The Triumph of Turlough O'Brien," a history of the wars in Thomond, by a hereditary historian, John MacRory Magrath, a considerable portion of which has been printed by the Cambridge Press. Failing health and increasing years led to his retirement into the country some years ago, and he died at Ballinruan, Hale, Cheshire, on 16th October, and was buried in Altrincham Cemetery on the 20th. O'Grady was most generous in the aid he gave to other workers in the same field, and his social qualities were remarkable. His knowledge suited every taste, and his conversation was as full of learning as his writings.

A PERSONAL REMINISCENCE.

On October 16th, at Hale, in Cheshire, there passed away, at the ripe age of 83 years, the last of the race of great Irish antiquarians of the past, the men who had absorbed with their mother's milk the language and traditions of their race, and who, however they might wander and whatever they might learn outside, remained essentially and distinctively Irishmen. We number Standish Hayes O'Grady, not with the scholars to whom Irish is an antiquarian and philological study, who are interested in Gaelic because it is a branch of Celtic, and in Celtic because of its Indo-European roots and affinities; we think of him as one, the last, of the race of the O'Hoseys, MacFirbises, O'Clerys, and O'Currys, to whom the native language and the native literature were their vital breath and the essence of their thought. Had he met Tadhg Mac Brodin in Thomond, or sat down in some Donegal cottage beside a peat fire with Teigue Dall O'Higgins, the two men would have cracked together through the night quaint satire and joke in full and mutual understanding. To the modern, their talk, seasoned with old sayings and proverbs, alive with wit, and stored with historical and legendary incident, might have been almost unintelligible, but to those who had even an inkling of such matters it laid a new world of lore open before the enchanted listener.

This is not to suggest that Standish O'Grady was, as some of these old bards and antiquarians were, shut out from modern knowledge. Of all the learned men that I have met, I think O'Grady was the most learned. He counted amongst his friends classical scholars, orientalists and mediaevalists, and met them on their own terms. A Gaelic Leaguer before the Gaelic League was founded, this modern Gaelic League ideal of a closed Ireland had no meaning for him; he would have scouted it as retrograde and childish. He had travelled much and spoke fluently in several languages, but he was never a pedant. His original way of approaching every subject made pedantry impossible; and his conversation was as valued at a college table as at an Irish fireside—everywhere he carried his breezy wit, his terse and often satiric humour.

In 1892 he published his great collection of Irish texts and translations. "Silva Gadelica," "a straw tossed up to see how the wind blows," he calls it, but both for him, the tosser, and for us, the readers, it has proved "the tossing of a caber as large as they make

them." It brought, in fact, to the notice of the public a great mass of material, historical, hagiological and romantic, upon which, as he says himself, "the keltologue and philologue, folklorist and comparative mythologist could work." "Personally," he says, in his quaint way, "I cannot boast of being anything that ends in either "—logue" or "—ist": that is to say in these countries. Were I back in the United States I should, of course, profess at least the arts of 'breakist', 'eatist', 'sleepist', and 'walkist."

"Silva Gadelica" came out over thirty years after Standish O'Grady's first printed work, his delightful edition of the "Pursuit of Diarmud and Grania," first published in one of the volumes of the old Ossianic Society, of which he was one of the founders and President. It was afterwards republished by the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language. From the time I first met him in 1896 he was absorbed in the preparation of his great Catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the British Museum, a work which he never completed, but which is, so far as it goes, and it includes a description of eighty-five manuscripts (not quite half of the whole collection), a mine of information on Irish historical and literary matters upon which future generations of students will draw. Besides Historical, Legal and Medical tracts, this Catalogue fortunately deals with many of the collections of bardic poetry; his unique grip of the idioms of the bardic Irish and of their style and metre, make his translations of these poems of priceless value; no one again will be able to interprete them as he has done, or will make us feel that for the first time we get face to face with the prolific but reclusive "Bardic tribe," and know what manner of men they were.

At the same time he had going through the Cambridge Press an edition of the historical tract entitled "The Triumphs of Turlough (O'Brien)," an important piece of history dealing with the wars of Munster between 1194-1355, the wars of the De Clares and O'Briens. O'Grady's intimate personal knowledge of the districts in which these wars took place (for he was born and bred beside the Shannon, in the barony of Coonagh and the parish of Kiltannandea, and had drunk in the traditions of the district from his earliest boyhood), made this a congenial task and one for which he was eminently fitted. It has long been lying incomplete, but we rejoice to hear that it was so far advanced before he passed away that it can be produced without the intervention of any other hand. It will be a posthumous work worthy

of the editor and of the subject. His profession as an engineer, though it led him far from the "Shannon shore," never quenched or clouded his love for Ireland. His quaint wit lighted up the grave walls of the Royal Irish Academy when he went over to Dublin for his work among the Irish manuscripts there; a man who had known O'Donovan and O'Curry was at home in such a place. He wrote both in English and Irish an exquisite hand, faultless, clear and delicate. His Irish script is closer than O'Clery's and more elegant O'Curry's hand. But Dublin gives little honour to her native scholars. Neither Stokes nor O'Grady received there any public recognition of their work for Irish scholarship; but Oxford bestowed a D.C.L. on Whitley Stokes and Cambridge a degree in Literature on Standish Hayes O'Grady. He cared little for honours, however, and never would use the title of "Dr." "My own name is good enough," he would say. I met him first when I was feeling about for material to place the great cycle of Ulster tales in some connected form before English readers. With the large bounty that he always showed to students, he flung himself into this project, and in spite of his heavier cataloguing tasks, hardly a week passed that he did not bring me some transcript and translation fresh made from manuscripts he had under his hand at the British Museum. Several of these I have here I was especially troubled by the lack of any complete translation of the Tain bo Cuailnge, wanting which the stories of Cuchulain were without centre or cohesion. At that time no such attempt had been made; we had only the disjointed episodes printed in O'Curry's valuable works. He immediately undertook to supply this want, and month by month, as he had time to work it off, the great story was brought to me bit by bit, unfolding in all its massive grandeur before by eyes. An analysis and portions of this version were published in 1898 in my "Cuchulain Saga," and with his fine translation of the "Battle of Magh Muirthemne," a tale never elsewhere published, it gives to this book whatever value it may possess. I am always glad to remember that my first lessons in Irish were learned from the "Tornigheacht Dhiai muda agus Grainne," and that my teacher was its editor, the last of the grand old scholars of Ireland, Standish Hayes O'Grady. ELEANOR HULL.

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GREAT IRISH BOOK COLLECTORS.

IV.—Sheffield Grace, F.S.A.

This genealogist and historiographer, a descendant of Richard Grace, the heroic defender of Athlone, who threatened to "eat his old boots" rather than surrender, was the son of Richard Grace, of Boley, Queen's County, M.P. for the pocket borough of Baltimore, an appanage of his relative Lord Carbery, and was born about 1788. He was named after that Earl of Sheffield, who was the champion of everything Irish in the England of the latter part of the eighteenth century. He was educated at Winchester School and Oxford, of which he became D.C.L. His tastes being literary and antiquarian, he was early elected F.S.A. and F.R.S. In easy circumstances—he befriended poor John Banim when rendered helpless by ill health—he was able to devote time and money to his favourite pursuits, and is best known nowadays as the compiler of "The Memoirs of the Family of Grace," privately printed, London, 1823, 8vo., pp. 104, and profusely illustrated with engravings of bookplates, coats of arms, landscapes and family portraits. On its production we are told "he expended between seventeen and eighteen hundred pounds, exclusive of his own personal expenses, in making frequent journeys for the purpose of sketching edifices, tombs, etc. . . . Six copies were printed upon imperial quarto tinted drawing paper. One of these was presented to his late Majesty (William IV.), and another to the late Emperor of Austria, who had manifested much regard for the author's uncle." Notwithstanding, it was subject to a good deal of ridicule as "a semiromance," and old William Beckford, the author of "Vathek," was especially severe upon it in his catalogue. Yet at his sale the author's copy realized £19 5s. His other works, all issued privately, are "Sketch of the Grace Mausoleum, Tullaroan, Queen's County," reprinted from Mason's "Statistical Survey," 1819, and "An Ancient Feudal War Song, 'Grassagh Aboo' . . . with translations into Metrical Versions of the English, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Greek and Latin languages," 1839, besides editing Worlidge's "Antique Gems" (1823) and "The Earl of Nithsdale's Escape from the Tower" (1827). The "Lines Written at Jerpoint Abbey," 8vo., Lond., 1823, pp. 16, generally bound up with the memoirs and frequently attributed to him, were really written by S. C. Hall. Sheffield Grace died at Tunbridge Wells 5th July, 1850, but his library was sold, for what reason it is not now possible to learn, by Evans, of Pall Mall, on 18th May, 1841, and five following days.

As might be surmised, it contained many family histories, genealogies, peerages and memoirs, with the works of Tom Moore and Lady Morgan. The Irish books numbered nearly five hundred, but with one or two exceptions, were not what could be called rarities, and as a rule fetched little, someone named R. Wilkes being a large buyer. Lynch's Irish Grammar went for 7s., and 5 vols. of tracts on Emancipation for 4s. The suppressed Memoirs of O'Connor, of Belnagare, fetched £2 12s. 6d., and his great work, Hib. Rerum Scriptores Vet., £18 10s. The List of Irish Forfeitures, 1701, bore this interesting note: "This is one of the rarest, if not the very rarest, book connected with the history of Ireland. When the Protestant proprietors of the newlyacquired Irish estates learnt that the volume had been committed to the press, they represented to the Government that the publication might endanger their lives, and would certainly point out to the Catholics and their descendants the names, situation and particulars of their lost possessions. The Government felt the reasonableness of their Remonstrance, and most vigorously suppressed the work before publication. The text terminates on page 303, with case 3103, but many more cases are added in manuscript." Nevertheless, although such a unique copy, it only fetched £6, and the total realized by the sale was £472. A presentation copy of Shaw Mason's "Bibliotheca Hibernicana," 1823, formed for Sir Robert Peel, when chief secretary, containing a eulogistic note on the "Memoirs," carefully emphasized by Mr. Grace, ultimately came into the possession of the present writer.

IRISH PROVINCIAL PRINTING.

LISBURN.—Till quite recently the earliest known date for printing in this town was 1803, there being extant a book printed there in that year by James Ward. Now, however, we can carry back the printing press there to the previous century, i.e., to 1784, as there is in the fine and valuable collection of the late Mr. Lavens Ewart a volume containing some of Congreve's Poems printed in Lisburn in that year. Only quite recently did I learn of it, and, through the courtesy of Mr. F. J. P. Burgoyne, the Librarian of Linen Hall Library, Belfast, where the collection is now on loan, I can afford our readers a collation of it.

Poems/ upon/ several occasions./ By Wm. Congreve, Esqre./
Minuentur atrae/ Carmine curae./ Hor./ Lisburn:/ Printed by
Thomas Ward./ M,DCC,LXXXIV./ 189 pages. Size 6½ × 4. Title I.II. Epistle III.-IV. The mourning Muse of Alexis, page 41. Table
of Poems (not paged, two pages at end). In the Table of Poems the
first page noted is page 39, "Epistle to the Rt. Hon. Charles Lord
Halifax, etc." Evidently, therefore, the book is complete, as pages
1-38 are not noted at all. The same surname for the two printers
certainly suggests their relationship and a continuance of the business
from 1784 to 1803, a period of about 20 years. Here, then, is another
and the latest instance of there being a printing press at work in an
Irish provincial town several years earlier than was supposed.

E. R. McC. DIX.

STRABANE (Vol. VII., p. 68). I can add the following items from my own collection to Mr. Dix's list:—

1827. The Christian Enquirer: A Weekly Miscellany. 8vo., 8pp. et seq. Vol. I. (Cowper Walker.)

- ,, A Protestant Catechism in four parts. Svo., 20pp. (Cowper Walker.)
- 1829. The Christian System or Manual of Scriptural Truth. By Rev. Robt. Colles, A.B. 8vo., vi. + 110pp. (Cowper Walker.)
- 1840. Address Delivered at the Funeral of late Mr. Samuel Morton. By Rev. Mr. Goudy. 4pp. (John Gray.)
- 1856. James Barr, Main Street; John Gray, Main Street; Andrew Jenkins, Market Place.) (Vide Slater's Directory.)

The "Tyrone Herald," though bearing the imprint stated, was really printed in Ballyshannon.

Belfast.

A. A. CAMPBELL.

TUAM (Vol. VII., p. 40). Reference is made to a former list of "Printing in Tuam" by the same writer, extending from 1774 to 1825, in which, under the year 1800, "The Tuam Gazette", is stated to have been "Printed for M. Bradley and P. Hynes at the Post Office." The next mention of Hynes in the list is under "1810," and is a reference to the "Hibernian Preceptor" and Cotton, both of which show that at that date he was a printer, which point is not ascertainable under the year 1800. It is, I think, worth while to put on record a somewhat earlier statement on this point which I have

come across in a copy of "Poems on the Giants' Causeway, and Killarney; with other Miscellanies. By Pat. O'Kelly, Esq. Dublin: 1808," which I picked up lately. In the "Subscribers' Names," which begin with "His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (Through the hands of J. B. Ruspine, Esq. Fifty Copies," we meet, on page 115, with the entry, "Hynes, Mr. P., Printer, Tuam." There does not appear to be any mention of Tuam in Madden's "Irish Periodical Literature."

Dublin. R. S. M.

Enniskillen Printing. (Vol. VII., p. 3.) To this list might be added "The Enniskillen Sintenel," printed by W. & J. Gibson, which only lasted about three months in the early seventies.

Armagh. D. T.

POETS THREE.

Songs of the Fields. By Francis Ledwidge. With an Introduction by Lord Dunsany. (Herbert Jenkins.) 3s. 6d. The war, responsible for so many other more important matters, has delayed the issue of this volume for over a year, and to-day both the poet and his sponsor are in the fighting line, "any well-informed spy can tell you where." Lord Dunsany's account of his discovery of the peasant poet of Slane has already appeared in our pages, and from the publisher's note we learn the additional facts that Ledwidge taught himself shorthand after his daily labour in the fields, with a view to qualifying as a reporter; that he worked in the mines up to the knees in water, and was discharged for organising a strike; and that in his scanty leisure hours he practised hypnotism, which led to the belief amongst his neighbours that he had sold himself to the Evil One. Be this as it may, the book was well worth waiting for. Seldom does one come across such an original volume of verse, the metaphors drawn entirely from the pastoral scenes spread daily before his eyes in his native Meath. Think of this with its haunting music which first appeared in the "Saturday Review"—the production of a lad of sixteen:—

And scenes of old again are born,
The woodbine lassoing the thorn,
And drooping Ruth-like in the corn
The poppies weep the dew.

Above me smokes the little town,

With its whitewashed walls and roofs of brown,

And its octagon spire toned smoothly down,

As the holy minds within.

And wondrous impudently sweet,

Half of him passion, half conceit,

The blackbird calls adown the street

Like the piper of Hamelin.

Such home-thoughts as these "Behind the Closed Eye," soon drew the lad from the city smoke back to his own loved fields. That he may soon return to them to sing more such songs must be the heart-felt wish of every reader.

IRISH ECLOGUES, by Edward E. Lysaght. (Maunsel.) 3s. 6d. We have already drawn attention to the high quality of the verse contributed by this gentleman to some of the English magazines, and now welcome their appearance in volume form, a volume which, with its vellum binding, gilt top and deckle edges, is as handsome a specimen of book production as heart could desire. As a pastoral poet, he invites comparison with Mr. Ledwidge, but the two stand in the relation of master and man even in their verses. The one carols gaily free from care, whilst Mr. Lysaght, as a farmer dependent for so much on the uncertain weather, sings

The song of the man who has sweated and toiled,
All day at the saving of hay and the making of tramps,
On a day when his work is well spent, and the crop is not spoiled
By the rain that he damns.

or "hucksters" for the price of cattle at a fair, admirably described, and for the first time in verse, truthfully. If one had been asked to guess the author of these verses:—

Long, long ago I was a foal,
A happy, shaggy little foal,
I used to gallop, graze and roll,
And when I thought, I thought the whole
World was a meadow.

But now I work and pull a car,
A heavy overloaded car;
I smell the meadows from afar;
But only once a week they are
More than a shadow.

One would unhesitatingly have said that they were the product of the next poet on our list, James Stephens, in his early days. Mr. Lysaght is one of the fortunate who meet with beauty everywhere, at home and abroad, and we look forward with pleasure to his next volume.

SEAMUS BEG: The Rocky Road to Dublin. By James Stephens. (Macmillan.) 3s. 6d. In this his latest volume Mr. Stephens reaches to heights of lyric poetry hitherto unattained even by him, and it is bound to enhance his already high reputation. What could be finer than this?:—

"The sun climbed on the heights three hours ago,
He laughed above the hills, and they were glad;
With bubbled heart he made the rivers flow,
And laced their mists in silver, and he clad
The meads in fragrant pomp of green and gold
And bade the world forget it had been sad."

Or this, bubbling over with mirth, merriment and joy of life, which he heard in "the Fifteen Acres":—

"I flit and twit
In the sun for a bit
When his light so bright is shining, O:
Or sit and fit
My plumes or knit
Straw plaits for the nest's nice lining, O,
And she with glee
Shows unto me
Underneath her wings reclining, O,

And I sing that Peg
Has an egg, egg, egg,
Up by the oat-field,
Round the mill,
Past the meadow,
Down the hill,
So early in the morning, O."

Or take, in another vein, that last turn, known to all Dublin:-

"Dunphy's Corner."
Pacing slowly down the road
Black horses go with load on load
Of Dublin people dead, and they
Will be covered up in clay.
Ere their friends go home, each man
Will shake has head, and drain a can
To Dublin people we will meet
Not again in Grafton Street.

Truly, James Stephens is the poet laureate of Dublin, and this volume adds another leaf to his chaplet.

IRISH LITERARY SOCIETY.

At the meeting on 3rd November, Mr. Alfred P. Graves in the chair, on the motion of the President, Miss Eleanor Hull, a resolution expressive of sorrow at the great loss sustained by Irish learning and literature through the death of Standish Hayes O'Grady, and of condolence with his relatives, was passed unanimously, the audience standing.

It being the centenary of the birth of John Mitchel, an address on his Life and Work was delivered by Dr. J. S. Crone, J.P., and was well received. It was illustrated by some of his books and autograph letters never printed, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. F. J. Bigger, of Belfast. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Joseph R. Fisher, LL.B., author of "The End of the Irish Parliament," and formerly editor of the "Northern Whig," who said he had always been an admirer of Mitchel as a great prose writer. Mitchel was a true disciple of Carlyle, both in politics and literature, as well as in his support of slavery. He hoped the splendid lecture they had listened to with such enjoyment would be printed. Dr. James Stewart, B.A., seconded, and mentioned that his wife, who was present, represented the Mitchel family. He dwelt upon the great pleasure he always derived from the perusal of the "Irish Book Lover." Eleanor Hull supported, and Father Eugene Sheehy told of the visit paid by John Mitchel and Father Kenyon to the Irish College in Paris in 1866. He, the speaker, was then librarian there, and discovering who the visitors were, passed the word around amongst the students, who, for the time being, cast all discipline aside and gave their distinguished countryman, on leaving, such hearty Irish cheers as that quiet quarter had never heard before. He heard Father Kenyon say, with tears of joy in his eyes, "God bless the boys! they're always right, John." He had shared Mitchel's hospitality in his home in New York, and a truer, braver, better man never breathed. After some remarks by the Chairman, the vote was carried with acclamation, and the lecturer suitably responded.

GOSSIP.

I notice that Mr. George Moore has been making some more "Confessions of a Young Man," this time in the witness box. He told that when he began writing novel stories, some thirty years ago, his first book was promptly banned by Smith and Mudie. "I told Mr. Mudie I wished to write personal literature, and to do that I should have to start a novel which could be bought by the public. It was that that made me issue a book at 6s. That started the 6s. novel, which has up to now held its place." Mr. Moore also recalled the fact that Mr. Gladstone had expressed opinions about his early novels, but, he added, amidst much laughter, "What was good enough for Mr. Gladstone wasn't good enough for Mr. Smith."

I see that the recently-formed Dublin Literary Society, a welcome addition to the intellectual life of the metropolis, has just been holding its inaugural meeting. The President, Mr. R. J. Kelly, K.C., delivered an interesting and learned address on "The Spirit and Soul of the Slav," dealing with the traditional and legendary literature of Russia and Serbia, which showed how intensely imaginative the Slavs were, and what treasures lay embedded in their lays and ballads. A hearty vote of thanks to the learned lecturer was passed unanimously. The Society meets every Tuesday evening, and amongst the future fixtures are lectures by Rev. George O'Neill, S.J., Messrs. Brendon Rogers, George Nicolls and Dawson.

I suppose it was inevitable owing to the close similarity of their names, and that only one appears in "Who's Who," that the newspaper scribes should confuse the two Standish O'Gradys, the veteran scholar recently departed, and the genial novelist and historian still happily spared to us, who has, no doubt, enjoyed the rare experience of reading his own obituary in at least one London "daily," and also

in a literary periodical. He might say truly like my old friend Mark Twain, under similar circumstances, that "the report was greatly exaggerated." It used to be said of Lord Brougham that he caused reports of his death to be spread abroad in order to see what the newspapers would say of him in the way of posthumous praise. It is not generally known that another Irish man of letters, Dr. R. Shelton MacKenzie, read a not at all too flattering obituary memoir of himself in "Hardwicke's Annual Biography" for 1857, written by Edward Walford, who was a relative of J. C. Lyons, of Ledestown. MacKenzie, now best remembered by his fine edition of Dr. Maginn's works in 5 volumes, lived till 1880, and is enshrined in D.N.P. and O'Donoghue's "Poets of Ireland."

The "Irish Monthly" for November is of more than usual interest. It opens with a pathetic little story of the war, "A Modern Bayard," followed by a poem from the pen of Lady Gilbert, "All Souls' Night." The serial, by Madge Blundell, "When the Wood is Green," grows in interest, and the verse by Magdalen Rock and J. J. Hayden is much above the average.

The English magazines for the same month are almost devoid of articles of Irish interest, but Elliott O'Donnell writes on "Haunted Royalties" in the "Occult Review," and Dr. Hagberg Wright on "The Peasant Songs of Russia" in the "Nineteenth Century." Mr. R. A. McCall, K.C., than whom no one knows the subject better, has an interesting article on "The Huguenots of Ulster" in the Proceedings of that Society I remember that his father, the late Hugh McCall, of Lisburn, the doyen of Ulster journalists, wrote a fine poem on the same subject many a year ago.

The exception is in the "National Review," which contains a clever character sketch of Sir Edward Carson, and emphasises his influence on the Ulstermen. It is entitled "So He Taught Them," and is from the pen of Miss Bates. I should also mention that Mr. C. B. Moffat contributes an excellent memoir of the late Richard M. Barrington, of Fassaroe, to "The Irish Naturalist," which deserves to be more widely known. Appended thereto is a portrait and a bibliography of his many contributions to scientific journals.

M. E. Francis (Mrs. Blundell) whose latest novel—she has written about a couple of dozen—"Dark Rosaleen" (Cassell), dealing with a mixed marriage, is going off well, is one of the three gifted daughters of M. J. Sweetman, of Lamberton Park, Queen's Co., though she her-

self was born at Killiney. The Sweetman girls early took to literature. The two younger sisters started a family magazine when they were still so small that their literary efforts were carried on in pencil between the lines of old copy books. Sister "M. E." was enlisted as a contributor, and finally promoted to be editor of a periodical which appeared at irregular intervals. It is pleasant to note that the other two sisters have since achieved fame, Miss Elinor Sweetman as a poet and the other as a novelist, known to-day as Mrs. Egerton Castle. Mrs. Francis is one of the many popular writers fostered by Fr. Matt. Russell in the "Irish Monthly." Her first story appeared there, as did her first serial, "Molly's Fortune," in 1889, the year of her marriage.

By the way, the title "Dark Rosaleen," derived doubtless from Mangan's great poem, like so many other titles of novels, has been used before. A well-informed correspondent tells me that a three-volume novel bearing that title was issued by Tinsley Bros., in the early eighties, written by a sister of John Augustus O'Shea. There was a life-like sketch in it of Father John Kenyon, of '48 fame, so good that my correspondent is inclined to attribute it to the pen of the "Irish Bohemian" himself, and James Stephens, the Fenian leader, was also introduced.

A Cork correspondent informs me that in view of his numerous auctions and his frequent dealings in curios, antiques, etc., the late Dr. Neligan was named by the wits of Cork city "Dr. Sell-agin"!

I have come to the conclusion that publishers are much maligned men, and for this reason. I was at a military-literary wedding the other day, where the bridegroom's publisher acted as best man, master of the ceremonies, presented the bride with a specially bound copy of "The Children of the Dead End," autographed by all the guests, responded to the toast of the bride's health in one of the wittiest speeches it has ever been my lot to listen to, and—footed the bill! The happy man was my friend Patrick MacGill, of the London Irish, back wounded from Loos, and the bride Miss Margaret Gibbons, greatneice of Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, and an elocutionist and authoress herself. The ceremony took place at the pretty little Catholic church on Hampstead Hill, and the bride was given away by Mr. C. E. Maurice, a son of F. D. Maurice, the friend and fellow-worker of Tennyson, Kingsley and Tom Hughes. At the reception afterwards, at the Waldorf Hotel, there was a merry gathering numbering not a

few notabilities of the literary world. By the way, none of our fighting penmen have turned out so much and so good copy on the war as MacGill. He has been recommended for the D.C.M., and he confessed to me he would rather have faced another German charge than the army of photographic fiends who surrounded the church door.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

THE FAMOUS CITIES OF IRELAND. By Stephen Gwynn. Illustrated by Hugh Thomson. (Maunsel.) 5s. No more capable or enthusiastic guides to the historic places and beauty spots of our own green isle could be found anywhere than the two gentlemen responsible for this charming and admirable work. Written with that grace and feeling which characterizes all Mr. Gwynn's work, and embellished by the pencil of Hugh Thomson, one of the greatest living masters of black and white, it is indeed a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. In it they conclude a scheme commenced ten years ago in "The Fair Hills of Ireland," issued by the same publisher, though their actual collaboration dates anterior to 1899, when their "Antrim and Donegal" first appeared in Macmillan's excellent "Highways and Byeways Series." North, south, east and west, from Derry to Cork and from Galway to Dublin, we are privileged to accompany author and artist on the pleasantest holiday journey an Irishman, or indeed any other man, could take; the way beguiled with many an interesting bit of historic lore—"old, forgotten, far-off things and battles long ago," and many a touching tale or witty observation. It is impossible to find fault with such a book, and one can only gently hint at a couple of slips. Relying on the older historians like Douglas and Graham. Mr. Gwynn refers at p. 185 to "the Londerias, a poem of unknown authorship, which was preserved in manuscript for a hundred years." This was always referred to by the said historians as the "Armagh MS." from being discovered in that county. But we now know that the poem was the production of the Rev. James Aickin, who kept a private school near Essex Bridge, and that it was "Printed by S. P. (Stephen Powell) at the Back of Dick's Coffee House" in Skinner's Row, Dublin, in the year 1699, and the only known copy is in the British Museum. It was in "Fraser," not "Blackwood," that Father Prout continued the literary tradition with Maginn (p. 302). The publishers deserve more than the conventional word of praise for the beautiful way in which the book is produced, outside and in. We can conceive of no more appropriate Christmas present, nor could any book lover desire other than a copy of "The Famous Cities of Ireland."

Fairy Led, and Other Verses. By Helen Lanyon. (W. and G. Baird, Belfast.) 1s. We were first charmed by this writer's "The Hill o' Dreams," and continued so when "What the Kind Wind Said" appeared. We have no reason to change our feelings with the latest volume, if volume it may be called, for it is only a dainty brochure of twelve poems charmingly illustrated by E. S. Duffin, and daintily printed by W. and G. Baird, Ltd., Belfast. The turf-cutter whose sweetheart has been won away from him by 'Johnny,' sings—

"I drive my cart through four townlands, on many a hearth my sods will shine;

But I can't quit thinking o' Mary Kate and the home that might ha' been hers and mine."

Was it the Antrim coast or the harbour in Lecale that inspired:—

"An' when I'm ould, an' lik' to die,

I'll still remember clearly

The bright brown sails, the windy sky,

An' the lads that laughed so cheerly "?

"St. Patrick's Well" might be quoted in full, but why should we; every reader can obtain it for himself. It is, with the life-like illustration, the gem of the book, with perhaps the exception of "The Dark Man."

"I'll take no gift from a grudgin' han',
I'll sing my songs to the childer wee;
They'll share their crusts wid the poor dark man,
Och, anee, anee!"

FORTHCOMING WORKS.

Mr. George Moore has in preparation a romance of the Holy Land entitled "The Brook Kerith," which has for its principal characters Jesus Christ, Paul of Tarsus, and Joseph of Arimathea. The story is written round legends which have been current for many centuries, though not to be found in the Gospels, and the local colour was drawn by the author on the spot. The book will be printed on antique paper with quarter leather binding, and published by Mr. Werner Laurie in an edition de luxe as well as an ordinary edition.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

AUTHORS WANTED.—In "The Irish Quarterly Review," No. XXVI., July, 1857, pp. 314-337, I find an article (unsigned) on "Irish Poetry," in which a number of Irish poems are translated into English. Who was the author of this article?

Dublin. F. T.

Who wrote "Irish Nationality in 1870, by a Protestant Celt"? It has been stated that the late Mr. Alfred Webb was the author of the pamphlet, but a note of reference to it in some of Mr. Webb's signed contributions shows that this is an error.

F. McD.

O'Donovan's Supplement to O'Reilly's Dictionary.—Who was the editor of the edition of Edward O'Reilly's Irish Dictionary published by Messrs. Duffy about 1877? Where was John O'Donovan's so-called "Supplement" (then first printed) obtained?

Dublin. F. T.

John D'Alton's MSS. (Vol. VII., p. 75.) Maurice Lenihan, in the Preface to his "History of Limerick" (Dublin, 1866) mentions that he had some years previously purchased the valuable Limerick MSS. of John D'Alton, Esq., M.R.I.A. Possibly some of D'Alton's MSS. were purchased by other writers on local history. If memory serves me, D'Alton's MSS. relating to Tipperary were also in Lenihan's possession, and were sold by auction (Sotheby's) in London a few years ago, being subsequently acquired by the Rev. Patrick Power, M.R.I.A., University College, Cork.

Cork. S. O'C.

In "The History of the Dublin Catholic Cemeteries," by Wm. J. Fitzpatrick, continued by his son, published at the Offices, 4, Rutland Square, 1900, on page 102, there is the following: "... Dalton... had compiled 200 volumes still unpublished embodying extracts from MSS. rare of access—historical topographical, and genealogical. He omitted to bequeath them to any public library ... but happily they still exist, fully indexed, and it is hoped may yet be exhumed from the dust and darkness in which they lie." From this it would appear that as late as 1900 all these vols. were complete, and their whereabouts known to Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Recently Mr. P. J. Lynch, M.R.I.A., Dublin, informed me that a few years ago, at a sale of the effects of the late Mr. John Moreton, he bought a collection of MSS., and found amongst them a MS. of

John Dalton, containing material for a History of the City of Cashel, with some correspondence showing that the Dublin and Cashel Railway Co. (now G.S. and W. Rly. Co.) contemplated getting him to write a History of that City, like his "History of Drogheda," written for the old Dublin and Drogheda Railway Co. Mr. Lynch presented the MS. to the Rev. P. Power, of University College, Cork, who was interested in the Cashel district, and bought a companion volume some time previously in London. Mr. Lynch believes the MS. he bought to have been at one time in the collection of Bishop Graves, of Limerick, or perhaps that of Maurice Lenihan, as Mr. Moreton lived in Limerick many years.

Dublin.

WILLIAM MacARTHUR.

KILKENNY. (Vol. VI., p. 118.) Some time about the year 1848 an interesting series of articles descriptive of visits to various places of interest in Co. Kilkenny were published in the "Kilkenny Moderator," and the articles were re-published in the same newspaper about a year or two ago. They have since been issued in a handy pamphlet form (12mo., 150pp.) with the following title: "Nooks and Corners of The County Kilkenny. By Paris Anderson. Kilkenny: Printed at the "Moderator" Printing Works, High Street. 1914." At first glance the author's name appears fictitious, and there is nothing to indicate that the work is not quite recent. There is no introduction except the old (undated) preface which appeals to the citizens of Kilkenny to promote a literary periodical journal such as was at that time contemplated by the young men of the "comparatively unimportant town of Carrick-on-Suir." In 1859 a short history of the Kilkenny Militia appeared in the "Moderator," and was re-published in its columns about a year ago. There was a Lieutenant Paris Anderson in that corps in 1815, and presumably he was the author of the "Nooks and Corners," and a Paris Anderson was living at No. 13, Belvedere Place, Dublin, in 1837. The little work is written in a very pleasing style, and conveys considerable legendary and historical information. It is well calculated, as the author intended to "raise a spirit of greater enquiry with respect to our local scenery, antiquities and traditional lore." If a new edition of the work is called for, the publishers could enhance its value considerably by the elimination of typographical errors and the addition of some information respecting the author and the circumstances under which the articles were originally written. SEAMUS O'CASAIDE,

DAVID CHARLES BELL. Can anyone give the date of death of this well-known elocutionist and editor of books of elocution? Perhaps some reader would give some general details about him. I believe he was connected in some way with the Fenian movement.

D. J. O'D.

THE DEATH OF THE PHILENI. A Drama. London, 1847. 4to., illus., pp. 23. Could any reader say who was the author of this work? The pseudonym Irelandiana, is affixed to the Preface, which says: "The profits of this work to be given to the sufferers from the failure of the potato crop."

Dublin. J. de L.

BOOK WANTED. Could any reader inform me where I could consult a work entitled "Claims of Suffering Loyalists. List of Persons who have suffered Losses in their Property in the County of Antrim, etc., and who have given in their names to the Commissioners. Dublin, 1799. folio." It is probably a Government return. F. E. B.

POST BAG.

(Vol. VI., p. 125, etc.) I find on closer ex-THE CORK MAGAZINE. amination that the pencilled signature about which I was uncertain was "W. F. L", and it is attached to a story entitled "Judith Donoghue, a tale of the South of Ireland," which ran through several numbers. I conjecture that this was W. F. Lyons, subsequently known as the biographer of T. F. Meagher, and the editor of his "Speeches." It is certain that Lyons was at that time a contributor to the Cork papers, and published verse in the "Southern Reporter." He is included in "Echoes from Parnassus," a selection of poems from that paper, published in Cork in 1849. "A Few Chapters from the East" have the pencilled signature "J. McC.", doubtless Justin McCarthy, "National Illustrations," running through many chapters, being marked "McC.", presumably the father of the future novelist. I am glad to have the definite information from Mr. McDonagh that the author of "The Last Lord of Beara" was John George McCarthy. I have never seen the book. The actual story written by Justin McCarthy could only have been that entitled "A Story of the Blackwater," whose hero is called "Parnell Fitzsimmons." It ends rather abruptly with Chapter VII., August, 1848. D. J. O'D.

MRS. VICTOR RICKARD, the author of "The Story of the Munsters," reviewed in last month's I.B.L., is the youngest daughter of Rev.

Canon Courtenay Moore, Rector of Michelstown, who is himself the author of several ecclesiastical pamphlets, a constant contributor to the "Church of Ireland Gazette," and an uncle of Mr. Wm. Moore, K.C., M.P. Mrs. Rickard is the author also of two recently-issued novels, "Young Mrs. Gibbs" (Eveleigh Nash) and "Dregs" (Alston Rivers). She has also another novel on the point of publication entitled "The Vision Luminous."

Queenstown. J. Cn.

"The Flight of the Earls." (Vol. VII., p. 52.) By way of supplement to Mr. O'Casaide's note on the above, I may state that there is another transcript of the original MS. of this text in St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny. It is about ten years since I saw it there, and I have mislaid a note which I made about it at the time; but, so far as my memory serves me, it may not be amiss to give a few particulars. The transcript was begun by Eugene O'Curry, and completed by Nicholas O'Kearney. A marginal note at the end of O'Curry's part says that these notes were the last O'Curry ever wrote. The copy was made for Rev. C. P. Meehan, and was evidently that utilised by him in his "Flight of the Earls." Subsequently it came into the possession of Bishop (afterwards Cardinal) Moran, who, on leaving Ireland, presented it to the local diocesan college.

T. F. O'RAHILLY.

OBITUARY.

T. J. Dunbar. The author of a pleasant volume of poems, "A Garland of Verse," Dublin, 1906, died in Limerick in September. He was an officer of Customs or Excise.

GERALD B. FITZGERALD.—Gerald Beresford Fitzgerald, author of many novels, died in London on October 3rd, 1915. He was born in Queen's Co. in 1849.

Captain Vere Dawson Shortt.—This writer, killed in action in France on April 25th, 1915, was the author of "Lost Sheep," a novel very favourably reviewed on its appearance some months ago, and of numerous short stories. He was born in 1872, probably in Co. Tyrone.

D. J. O'D.

Compendious and interesting memoirs of the late and present Popes from the pen of our esteemed contributor, Mr. R. J. Kelly, K.C., are comprised in a neatly-bound volume, issued by the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, price 6d., which will repay perusal, and deserves preservation for reference.

The Irish Book Advertiser.

WANTS AND SALES.

Brack n. B. 16, Effra Road, Brix-Mayne, Erskine, 3, Donegall Inn Hill, S.W. Prendergast's Square, Belfast, Killen's History Comwellian Settlement in Ireland; Webb's Compendium Irish Biography; O'Grady's Silva Cadelica; O'Grady's Catalogue O'Rahilly, T. F., 36, Belgrave Irish MSS, in Brit, Museum; Square, Dublin, Thesaurus Paleshull's Cuchullain Saga; O'Curry's Manners and Customs.

Burns, A., Greenville St., Connswater, Belfast, Annals of the Four Masters, Vol. 2, 1856; Canning's Baldergh O'Donnell, 1381; Irish Topography, any; Ulster Journal Archaeology, any; Ulster Journal Archaeology, any; Ulster Journal Archaeology, any; Sketches in Carberry; Townsend's Officer Long Parliament; Hickson's Kerry Records; Irish Museum Catalogue of MSS; Old Catechisms in Irish. Archaeological Society's vols; Thereaut, W. H. 57, Antrim 32, 100 and 100 Four Masters,
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odd; Huguenot Settlers in Ireland.

IRISH LITERARY SOCIETY.

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